



St. Louis Audubon Society



VOLUME 58, NUMBER 5

DECEMBER 1991

NAS Vice-President Highlights Population Meeting

by Ron Darling & Dave Tylka

Senior Vice-President from the National Audubon Society, Dr. Eric A. Fischer, Ph.D., also the Director of the Science and Sanctuaries Division, will highlight our next general membership meeting on February 7, 1992. This meeting will be held at the new Missouri Conservation Dept. Powder Valley Nature Center near the intersection of Interstates 44 and 270 in Kirkwood. Call 821-8427 or 821-1571 between 8 am and 5 pm daily for directions.

Committee updates and other chapter activities will be summarized between 7:30 and 8:00 pm. The issues forum entitled Human Population Challenges for the Future will then begin at 8:00 pm. Global and national impacts of the growing population will be discussed by Dr. Fischer and other invited panelists, and various directions to solve our population dilemma will be explored. Audience participation is invited after the panel discussion with an extensive question-and-answer period.

Before joining NAS about a year ago, Dr. Fischer served as Deputy Director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama and as a faculty

member at the University of Washington. In 1987 he was awarded a Congressional Science Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest federation of scientific organizations.

This forum is the second of our Chapter's series of three conservation issues relating to our environmental sustainability. The first featured a discussion on forest management and clear cutting. The third, to be held on April 3, 1992, will focus on wetland management, the potential softening of national regulations, and management of the largest natural oxbow lake in Missouri, Creve Coeur Lake.

Act for Wildlife in '92

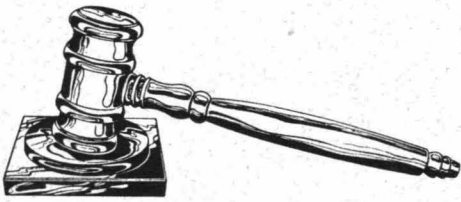
Audubon is planning its first ever national convention in Washington, D.C., in June 1992. Entitled "Act for Wildlife in '92: Endangered Species Need You!", this convention is scheduled to enable Audubon members to join forces at a critical time for wildlife in the nation's capital. Not only is it an election year, but 1992 will be one of the biggest ever for environmental legislation affecting wildlife and wildlife habitat. The Endangered Species Act is up for

reauthorization in 1992, and next June will be a critical time for decision making on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge legislation, Clean Water Act, and the Ancient Forest bill.

At least 1,000 Auduboners are expected to come to Washington, D.C. next June to learn about the threats to wildlife and the Endangered Species Act and to make their views known on this and other environmental bills before Congress. "Act for Wildlife in '92" will open Saturday, June 13, at American University. It will include three days of workshops on issues, lobbying and organizing skills, a day on Capitol Hill topped off with a Congressional reception, both day-long and multi-day field trips to outstanding natural areas in the Mid-Atlantic region including the Chesapeake Bay, Canaan Valley (a unique subalpine ecosystem tucked in the mountains of West Virginia), historic Harpers Ferry, the C&O canal, and birding in little-known, local wetland areas — not to mention the many museums, cultural and historic sights of Washington, D.C.

(A brochure giving details on program, registration, lodging and field trips will be available during January 1992.)

— Taken from Audubon Chapter Networker, Fall 1991



From Your President

by Bill Salsgiver

The conservation community recently won a battle in the U.S. Senate. The Johnston-Wallop Bill, which would have opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration, was defeated after some political wrangling. The war is not over, however. We must remain vigilant until the area is protected. Urge your legislators to support S.39 and its House companion H.J.R.239, which will designate the coastal plain of the refuge as wilderness.

If you are interested in keeping up to date on a wide variety of national and international issues, get the Audubon Activist. The publication is free if you simply agree to write two letters and make two phone calls on behalf of environmental issues. Contact: Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

Don't forget to recycle your Christmas tree this year. After January 1, 1992, it will be unlawful to put trees, or any lawn debris, into landfills. The County Parks will offer several drop-off points for trees. These trees will then be turned into mulch, available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Check the newspapers (before you recycle them) for the drop-off nearest you.

I hope that you all have a safe and joyous holiday season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Bird Counts

Sunday, December 15, 1991 — Busch Wildlife Christmas Bird Count at 8:00 am. Meet in parking lot. Bring lunch. For further information, call Tom Parmeter at 921-6017. \$5.00 mandatory participation fee required by National Audubon Society.

Saturday, December 21, 1991 — Pere Marquette Christmas Bird Count at 8:00 am. For further information, call Helen Wuestenfeld at 1-618-498-5335. \$5.00 mandatory participation fee required by National Audubon Society.

Saturday, December 28, 1991 — Mingo National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Count. Call Steve Dilks at 741-4854 for further information by December 21.

Sunday, December 29, 1991 — Orchard Farm Christmas Bird Count at 8:00 am to dusk. Meet at intersection of Hwys 94 and B, east of St. Charles. \$5.00 mandatory participation fee required by National Audubon Society. Bring lunch. Contact Randy Korotev, W# 935-5637 or H# 993-0055.

Second Sunday Open House and Programs

Sunday, January 12, 1992 — Open House from 11 am to 3 pm. No program planned. Good time to browse the library and enjoy a fire in the fireplace. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy others' company.

Friday, February 7, 1992 — General Membership Meeting on human population challenges beginning at 7:30 pm at the MO Conservation Dept. Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood.

Sunday, February 9, 1992 — Open House from 11 am to 3 pm. Program is on the Hellbender amphibian at 1:30 pm by Mr. Mike Laturno of the St. Louis Zoo. Mike will have slides and a live specimen on display. Children welcome. An enlightening program for all who don't know much about this endangered salamander.

Sunday, March 8, 1992 — Bird Appreciation Day and Workshop. Times and location to be announced in next newsletter, but mark your calendars now.

Bird Walks

Saturday, January 11, 1992 — Busch Wildlife Area at 9:00 am. (NOTE LATER TIME.) South on Hwy 94 from Hwy 40 one mile; west on Hwy D to entrance; meet at Hampton Lake just west of HQ area entrance. Guide: Steve Dilks, H# 741-4854.

Saturday, February 8, 1992 — Tyson Research Center at 8:00 am. I44 west from I270 to Antire/Beaumont Exit (approx. 9 miles). Meet at Gate House located right off the ramp on right. Guide: Dave Pierce, H# 434-1651.

Saturday, February 22, 1992 — Riverlands Wildlife Area at Mel Price Dam at 8:00 am. North on Hwy 367, cross Missouri River and continue north almost to Mississippi River; turn right at last filling station before Mississippi River. Meet east of station at Riverlands sign. Guide: Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972.

Saturday, March 7, 1992 — Busch Wildlife Area at 8:00 am. See directions above. Guide: Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972.

Birdseed Sale Nets Funds for Audubon

by Ron Coleman

Our first chapter birdseed sale was a great success. Over 6,000 pounds of black, oil-type sunflower seed were purchased in advance by chapter members and distributed at West County Shopping Center on November 16 and 17.

Thanks to everyone who participated, nearly \$600 was netted and will be applied towards supporting important, local Audubon conservation and education programs.

In spite of the cold and rain, Audubon members Jerry Miller, Bill Salsgiver, Jerry Castillon, Dave Pierce, Ron Darling, Dave Tylka and Ron Coleman worked diligently through the weekend to see that all orders were filled in good fashion. Thanks, guys!

So successful was our first sale that we plan to hold another one on Saturday, January 18. (See enclosed order form for details.) As your "seed can" begins to empty with each filling of your feeder, please keep our winter seed sale in mind so that you can replenish your seed inventory and continue your backyard birdfeeding without disruption through the winter months.

When ordering, you might also want to pick up an extra bag or two for your friends, neighbors or relatives. Remember when you purchase your birdseed through St. Louis Audubon, you are not only feeding your backyard birds but also helping to sustain our conservation and education efforts!

The Conservation Corner

by Ron Darling

Taxidermist Wanted

Recently my wife found a dead screech owl, rufous phase, on a subdivision street. What caused the death of this precious predator? I would guess this bird's last wish would be a commitment to educate people about its species' preservation.

With this in mind, the Conservation Committee is seeking a volunteer taxidermist to mount bird and small mammal specimens that members find, after our Chapter obtains the required federal and state permits. The specimens would be used in an Audubon program for display, presentation, and outreach loan programs to educate young and budding minds (as well as always-learning Audubon members). Please contact me if you can assist.

Conservation Committee

This taxidermist/education program represents one aspect of my getting back to basics of conservation interest. Other current focus subjects include human population dynamics, wetlands, and bird housing. The Conserva-

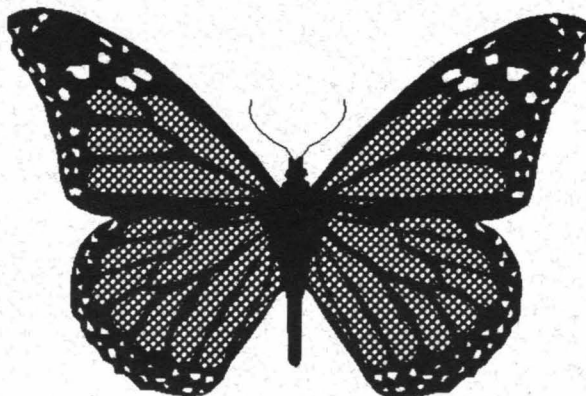
tion Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Please call me for meeting details and location.

Audubon Action Alert: Wetlands at Risk

As every birdwatcher knows, many birds that are difficult to find anywhere else can often be spotted in wetland habitats. Migrating birds are especially dependent on wetlands because such places provide food and water and cover. In fact, there are many different kinds of plants and animals that cannot survive except in the special environment of wetlands. Wetlands also serve as natural means of flood control and water storage. And, of course, wetlands are beautiful and soothing and comforting to be near. As Confucius said, "To find pleasure in water is wise."

Development on wetlands is currently regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. To implement the guidelines of Section 404, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies use a guide called the 1989 Wetlands Delineation Manual to identify and determine the boundaries of wetlands. The present manual defines wetlands as any depression in the landscape where the ground is inundated or where the soil is water-saturated at or near the surface for at least seven consecutive days during the growing season.

But in August, the White House, under pressure from a development group (calling itself the "National Wetlands Coali-



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tion”), proposed that the “definition” of wetlands be changed. The new rules would restrict wetlands to areas having fifteen consecutive days of standing water during a growing season, or at least twenty-one days in which the soil is saturated with water up to the surface. There are also changes in the definition of the growing season.

How does the change in “definition” constitute a risk to wetlands? Under current rules, development in wetlands is forbidden without a permit. A permit can be issued only if it can be proven that there is no viable alternative site to development. However, by redefining the definition of wetlands, the administration proposal will instantly remove one third (30,000,000 acres) of currently existing wetlands from protection!

Since pre-colonial times, our country has lost half of its wetlands. We cannot afford to lose more. If you love the serenity and beauty of wet places and the animals and plants that wetlands sustain, make your voice heard. Write your senators and representatives.



Let them know that you object to the proposed changes in wetlands policy and that the Wetlands Delineation Manual should not be revised to suit the financial interests of developers.

In the 1988 campaign, President Bush promised to protect and preserve “existing” wetlands. Let’s hold him to his promise.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

The Education Corner

by Mary Lou Miller

Receipts & Labels for Audubon Adventures

Are you saving those labels and receipts for the Community Commitment for Action (CCA) Program? Help raise funds for Audubon Adventures by saving specific receipts and labels. A listing came out in the previous newsletter. If you don’t have your listing or have any questions, please contact Ginny Conger at 721-0611. You can bring your labels and receipts to any membership meeting or Second Sunday Open House, give them to any board member or officer, or mail them to Ginny at 7125 A Dartmouth, University City, MO 63130. It will take us a while to get into the habit of saving these. Please start now.

SLEEN

The St. Louis Audubon Society will soon become a member of St. Louis Environmental Education Network (SLEEN). This group meets once a month to exchange ideas on environmental education projects and activities. Bill Kloppe will represent us from the Education Committee. If you are interested in getting involved as another liaison/representative, please call Mary Lou Miller at 389-3969 (evenings).

Bird Feeding Program Given by Masons

Recently, Ed and Lee Mason gave a program at the Mansfield Nursery on birds and bird feeding. About 45 people attended, with lots of questions afterwards. Mansfield Nursery made a donation to our Chapter, which Lee and Ed have requested to be used for our educational program, Audubon Adventures. We thank Ed and Lee for taking their time to present this program and many other special ones, with donations going to our Chapter. We have been fortunate to have their expertise to call on.

Education Center Library

On Sunday, November 24, the Library Committee again met at the Education Center to work on cataloging of books. Jerry Miller finished putting up the new shelves in the living room. We already have some of them filled. As is usual in working on the books, we found some real gems among them. Also, we came across some Audubon, Lockhart and Singer prints in some portfolios. These “finds” always make the cataloging more fun and interesting. It’s hoped by spring we can have the cataloging complete and a checkout system in use so members and friends can check out books. If you would like to help with this project, contact Janice Patton at 961-1545 (evenings).

Goodbye to Debby Samac

In December of 1991, Debby Samac and her husband, John McKrone, will be moving to St. Paul, Minnesota, where she will be Research Plant Pathologist with the USDA and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus. Debby has been on the Education and Conservation Committees for the past three years, filling positions such as program chairwoman for two years, co-chairwoman of Birdathon one year, plus helping in many other ways including Audubon Adventures. We wish Debby and John happiness and best of luck as this major change comes to their lives. We'll miss them.

LPs and Videos for Loan

Several LPs and Videos (VHS) are available at the Audubon's Education Center Library for loan to members and teachers at no cost, except for shipping charges. A deposit is required, which will be returned when the LP or video is returned undamaged. Most of these audio and visual materials deal with birds, but some involve other animals or environmental topics of interest to us all. Please call Nick Staten at 821-5560 for further details. The following titles are presently in our library:

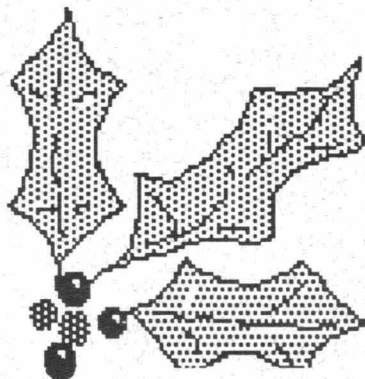
LPs

Bird Song and Behavior
A Field Guide to Western Bird Songs (Peterson Field Guide Series)

A Field Guide to Bird Songs of Eastern and Central America (Peterson Field Guide Series)
Sounds of Nature Series
Vol. 4 **Warblers**
Vol. 6 **Finches** (Fringillids) — Includes buntings, crossbills, finches, grosbeaks, redpolls, and sparrows
Vol. 7 **Prairie Spring** — Includes geese, ducks, and marsh/prairie birds
Vol. 8 **Thrushes, Wrens, & Mockingbirds**

Videos

Ground Water: The Hidden Resource — Put out by the Missouri DNR
Mission: Rescue — Shows what is involved in cleaning birds after oil spills
What is the Limit — Population issues; includes guide and poster
Decade of Destruction — Parts I, II, III, and IV on 2 cassettes
World of Audubon: Whales
World of Audubon: Wolves
World of Audubon: Sea Turtles
Eagles by Peter Roberts
Watching Birds with Roger Tory Peterson
Bluebirds Up Close
Hummingbirds Up Close
Owls Up Close
Attracting Birds to Your Backyard
Audubon's Video Guides to Birds of North America — Volumes I, II, III, IV, & V



Audubon Camp in the West—Torrey Valley, Wyoming

by Thomas M. Reich

As the bus creaked and groaned over the last ten miles of bumpy road, I was beginning to wonder if I had made the right decision to attend Audubon's Camp in the West. Where was all of the majestic beauty that I had dreamed of seeing? All I had seen in the last two hours was dry, barren land with an abundance of sagebrush. As we finally entered the camp, I turned to my wife and said, "What have we gotten ourselves into?"

But as the saying goes, "Looks can be very deceiving," so it was with Camp in the West. It didn't take me very long to discover that there was a certain, wonderful magic surrounding Torrey Valley. I am reminded of the contentment I experienced as I tried my hand at fly fishing for rainbow and brook trout in the icy run-off from the glacier many miles away. I have many wonderful remembrances of the five days that I spent with a most helpful and knowledgeable staff and the camaraderie of the fifty other participants who, all with a variety of backgrounds and experiences but with similar interests, helped to make the camp an extraordinary learning experience.

Each day, as we signed up for the various courses in ecology or those wonderful afternoon hikes to Lake Louise or to the "golf course," was filled with so many experiences it is hard to point to just one or two and say this is

Continued on next page

what Camp in the West was all about. The day I saw my first big horned sheep staring down at me with such majesty is one I'll never forget. The all-day alpine hike with so many different and beautiful flowers and the splendor of the Tetons and other mountain ranges are some things that I don't need a camera to help me remember.

As I do the owl pellet lab and other activities with my students this year, I'm sure the image of Jay Butler will pop into my head, and as I write letters to my senators or congressmen, I'll see Peg Abbott, the camp leader, standing in front of the group on that foggy Saturday morning as we were preparing to leave camp and inspiring all of us to do as much as we can to help save this fragile earth.

As one can see, first impressions are not what they always seem to be. The scholarship your chapter gave to me allowed me to view nature from a totally different perspective. Impressions of the people, places and things from the Camp in the West will always be with me and hopefully allow me to impress upon my students and acquaintances how important it is to become involved and not to be afraid to express their viewpoints when it comes to helping the world in which we live.

Awards Committee News

The St. Louis Audubon Society is once again pleased to offer two scholarships to the Audubon Ecology Camps run by the National Audubon Society and located in Connecticut, Maine, and Wyoming. Attendance at an

Audubon Camp can enrich your life.

These scholarships cover the cost of the six- or seven-day session fee. Transportation costs are the responsibility of the selected recipients.

Educators are especially encouraged to apply. Interested applicants should contact:

Karen S. Haller, Chairman —
Awards Committee
618 Spring Meadows Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011-3451
Ph. (314) 227-5693

Necessary application forms, information and procedures can be obtained through Karen.

Birdathon Boot Camp

by Michael F. Zeloski

National Audubon's Birdathon Boot Camp was attended by Mary Dueren and me November 15-17 in Charleston, South Carolina. We joined Auduboners from the eastern half of the U.S. The purpose of the weekend was to learn how to be good fund raisers for the St. Louis Audubon Society. Our goal is to get as many members involved to watch birds during one 24-hour period in the spring and to obtain sponsors, who will pledge money for each species cited. We want to raise \$5,000 to facilitate putting Audubon Adventures in St. Louis City and area schools.

The trip to Charleston was pleasant. We settled into fully furnished cabins on stilts in James Island County Park, overlooking a marsh. Clapper rails were calling at all hours of the day and night. Later, we birded the edge of the marsh for about 45 minutes but, unfortunately,

didn't spot any rails. Sunday, we hiked the Francis Beidler Forest Sanctuary with our Audubon staff guide Norman Brunswig. Norman has worked at this virgin tupelo cypress forest for 17 years. We also canoed in Four Holes Swamp.

The boot camp included a full day of meetings to learn about fund raising, which concluded with role playing. We learned about fund raising on a national level and a variety of ideas we can try here in the St. Louis area. Mary and I would like to thank the St. Louis Audubon Society for sponsoring a large portion of the trip. We hope that you will want to help us with this fun and worthwhile project. Please call me at 227-7754 after 7 pm if you have any questions.

Newsletter Changes

The St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter is printed on recycled paper with soybean ink. No staples are used so as to make the newsletter more easily recyclable. Printing is done by Dolde Printing Company, 1350 Lonedell Road, Arnold, MO 63010.

The new editor is Karen Tylka. Please send article submissions to her at 24 Anawood Drive, Arnold, MO 63010. Her phone number is 296-1419.

Special thanks to past editor Mark Sumner for his fine work during the last two years to bring computerization to the newsletter. Our Chapter has been fortunate to have dedicated newsletter editors like Mark, Blaine Ulmer, and Cis Hager.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check the membership category desired: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ Introductory/\$20

☐ Individual/\$35

☐ Family/\$40

☐ Sustaining/\$50

☐ Supporting/\$100

☐ Sr. Citizen/\$21

☐ Sr. Citizen Family/\$23

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Send application to:

Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairman

St. Louis Audubon Society 7XCH

7024 Forsyth

St. Louis, MO 63105

Make membership checks payable to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

If you wish to make a donation to the local chapter, please write a separate check to:

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Winter Birdseed Sale

Here's a way to support our chapter's Conservation and Education Programs and, at the same time, feed and enjoy watching songbirds around your home — purchase black oil-type sunflower seed from our chapter through the mail and pick up the seed on Saturday, **January 18**, at West County Shopping Center. Simply drive to the **northwest corner of the parking lot** between 10 am and 3 pm, and we'll load your order into the trunk of your car.

Black oil-type sunflower seed is a premium seed type that attracts the widest array of songbirds in the Midwest. (For a complete explanation of attractiveness of black oil-type sunflower seed, please call the Missouri Conservation Metro Office at 821-1571 and ask to be sent out the free bifold brochure, "Backyard Birdfeeding".)

The sunflower seed will be available in 25- and 50-pound bags. We will sell the 25-pound bag for \$8.00 and the 50-pound bag for \$13.00. To order, please use the tear-off order blank below. Figure out how many bags of each weight you want — remember to check with your friends, neighbors and relatives — multiply by the price of that weight, and mail in a check for that amount made out to the St. Louis Audubon Society. Please mail in your order/check by January 11 and come by the central location of West County Shopping Center between the hours listed above for your seed. In case you cannot pick it up that Saturday (or forget to), please call our Audubon telephone answering machine at 938-6123, and other arrangements will be made. Thank you for supporting our Conservation and Education Programs!!! If you have any questions, please call any board member or officer or leave a message on the telephone answering machine.

(Please Detach Here, Mail This Portion In Along With Your Check)

[Please Print]

Name _____ Phone Day _____ Eve _____

Address _____

Number of 25-pound bags _____ x \$ 8.00 per bag = _____

Number of 50-pound bags _____ x \$13.00 per bag = _____

Total Amount (Check Enclosed) _____

Please Make Checks Payable to: St. Louis Audubon Society

Please Mail Order and Check to: Birdseed
St. Louis Audubon Education Center
389 Lewis Road
Crescent, MO 63018

Officers 1991/92

Bill Salsgiver	President	225-1490
Mary Lou Miller	VP-Education	389-3969
Ron Darling	VP-Conservation	739-8775
Ron Coleman	VP-Finance	458-3688
Dave Ulmer	Treasurer	394-1686
Arthur Montgomery	Secretary	862-3517

Board of Directors

John Blake	Field Trip Co-Coordinator	553-6578
Bill Branhorst		965-7269
James Campbell	MO Audubon Council	961-3236
Jerry Castillon	MO Audubon Council	391-7586
Barbara Cordes		832-6051
Don Davis	MO Audubon Council	773-8249
Paul Denk		993-6628
Steve Dilks	MO Audubon Council	741-4854
Karen Haller	Awards Committee Chair	227-5693
Jim Holsen	Annual Dinner/PR Chair	822-0410
Jerry Miller	House & Grounds Chair	389-3969
Cliff Ochs		968-3357
Dave Pierce	Field Trip Co-Coordinator	434-1651
Robert Remmert	Adopt-a-Display Case Chair	522-3718
Mark Sumner		296-9026
Carol Sutherland		1-629-3968
Mike Zeloski	Birdathon Co-Chair	227-7754

Other Chairpeople/Coordinators

Katherine Chambers	Membership	863-9346
Mary Dueren	Birdathon	576-1473
Janice Patton	Library	961-1545
Vi Pinkerton	Flowers (condolences, etc.)	394-0953
Nick Staten	Video & Slide Library/Posters	821-5560

THANK YOU

For Audubon Adventure

Donations:

BARBARA CORDES — for 1 classroom for the St. Louis Public Schools
DIANA MENSENDICK — for 1 classroom

For Donations to the St. Louis Audubon Society:

EVA BUDDE
CHAPTER LX PEO for bird talk by Blaine Ulmer
SONYA GLASSBERG Foundation in memory of her husband, Myron
WEBSTER GROVES
GARDEN CLUB 5

For Education Center Work:

JOHN & MARILYN
MARTIN — for picking up leaves and trash, stacking wood from a fallen tree, and filling birdfeeders.
JERRY MILLER — for facilitating change from old, dangerous, underground propane tank to modern, aboveground one.
BILL SALSGIVER & SON,
JOHN — for helping with fall maintenance cleanup and sewer work.

St. Louis Audubon Society

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Crescent, Missouri 63018

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